



## Informed Consent Form

**Title of Research Study:** *Effectiveness of Physician Assistant Program Curricular Inclusion of Strategies to Identify, Evaluate, and Manage Patients with a History of Sexual Assault Within the United States Territory*

**Principal Investigator:** Natalia Poltorak, PA-S, MBS, BS

**Department Affiliation:** Master of Science – Physician Assistant Program, Seton Hall University

**Sponsor:** This research is overseen by professors Christine Fernandez, MD and Abby Saunders, PhD, PA-C from the Physician Assistant department of Seton Hall University.

**Brief summary about this research study:**

The following summary of this research study is to help you decide whether or not you want to participate in the study. You have the right to ask questions at any time.

Sexual assault is a considerable public health problem resulting in many medical and psychosocial consequences. Healthcare providers are integral to the care of victims of sexual assault, and should be educated on the identification, evaluation, and management of patients with a history of sexual assault. Physician assistants (PAs) are one such provider that victims of sexual assault may encounter when seeking healthcare. The education that PAs receive while in graduate school may have a significant impact on their confidence in managing the care of patients with a history of sexual assault.

The purpose of this study is twofold. The investigators intend to investigate all accredited PA programs within the United States territory to determine the curricular hours dedicated to teaching how to identify, evaluate, and manage patients who have experienced sexual assault. Additionally, the investigators intend to determine if a correlation exists between curricular hours committed to the topic of sexual assault and levels of self-perceived PA student confidence in identification, evaluation, and management of patients with a history of sexual assault. Studying this topic may contribute to the improvement of PA program curricula regarding education on how to care for patients with a history of sexual assault, subsequently creating more knowledgeable, capable, and qualified PAs to care for these patients. Ultimately, the enhancement of PA student training in caring for victims of sexual assault has the potential to positively alter patient outcomes.

You will be asked to complete a survey consisting of 17 likert scale, rating scale, multiple choice, select all that apply, and fill in questions.

The investigators estimate that the survey can be completed in 10 minutes or less.

The primary risk of participation is emotional/psychological distress.

The main benefit of participation is your understanding of medical and social problems of our research.



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### **Purpose of the research study:**

You are being asked to take part in this research study because you are currently enrolled in ARC-PA accredited program in the United States, at least 18 years of age, proficient in the English language, have no decision-making impairments, and capable of completing the full survey.

Your participation in this research study is expected to be for maximum 10 minutes.

### **What you will be asked to do:**

Your participation in this research study will include:

- Read and review the informed consent.
- Answer all 17 questions found on the survey honestly and to the best of your ability.
- There is no other requirement from you for our research.

### **Your rights to participate, say no or withdraw:**

Participation in research is voluntary. You can decide to participate or not to participate. You can choose to participate in the research study now and then decide to leave the research at any time. Your choice will not be held against you.

The person in charge of the research study can remove you from the research study without your approval. Possible reasons for removal include missing study visits or non-compliance with the study procedures.

### **Potential benefit:**

There may be no direct benefit to you from this study. You may obtain personal satisfaction from knowing that you are participating in a project that contributes to new information.

### **Potential risks:**

The risks associated with this study are minimal in nature. However, the investigators acknowledge the emotional risks and that you may experience feelings of anxiety or distress associated with some of the questions asked. If you wish to speak to someone, you may contact your local crisis center or contact the Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-HOPE (4673). Additionally, your school may offer student counseling services. If you think you are in danger or need to speak to someone right away, please dial 911.

### **Confidentiality and privacy:**

Efforts will be made to limit the use or disclosure of your personal information. This information may include the research study documents or other source documents used for the purpose of conducting the study. These documents may include your answers to the survey questions. The investigators cannot promise complete secrecy. Organizations that oversee research safety may inspect and copy your information. This includes the Seton Hall University Institutional Review Board who oversees the safe and ethical conduct of research at this institution.

This survey is being hosted by Qualtrics and involves a secure connection. Terms of service, addressing confidentiality, may be viewed at <https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>. Upon receiving results of your survey, any possible identifiers will be deleted by the investigator. You will be identified only by a unique subject number. Your email address will be stored separately from your survey data. All information will be kept on a password protected computer only accessible by the research team. The results of the research study may be published, but your name will not be used.



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### **Data sharing:**

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance knowledge. The investigators will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the information the investigators share. Despite these measures, the investigators cannot guarantee anonymity of your personal data.

### **Cost and compensation:**

There is no payment for your time to participate in this study.

### **Conflict of interest disclosure:**

The principal investigator and members of the study team have no financial conflicts of interest to report.

### **Contact information:**

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this research project, you can contact the principal investigator, Natalia Poltorak, at [natalia.poltorak@student.shu.edu](mailto:natalia.poltorak@student.shu.edu) or (908) 403-6180 or the Seton Hall University Institutional Review Board (“IRB”) at (973) 761-9334 or [irb@shu.edu](mailto:irb@shu.edu).

If you do not wish to participate in this study, please select exit the browser.